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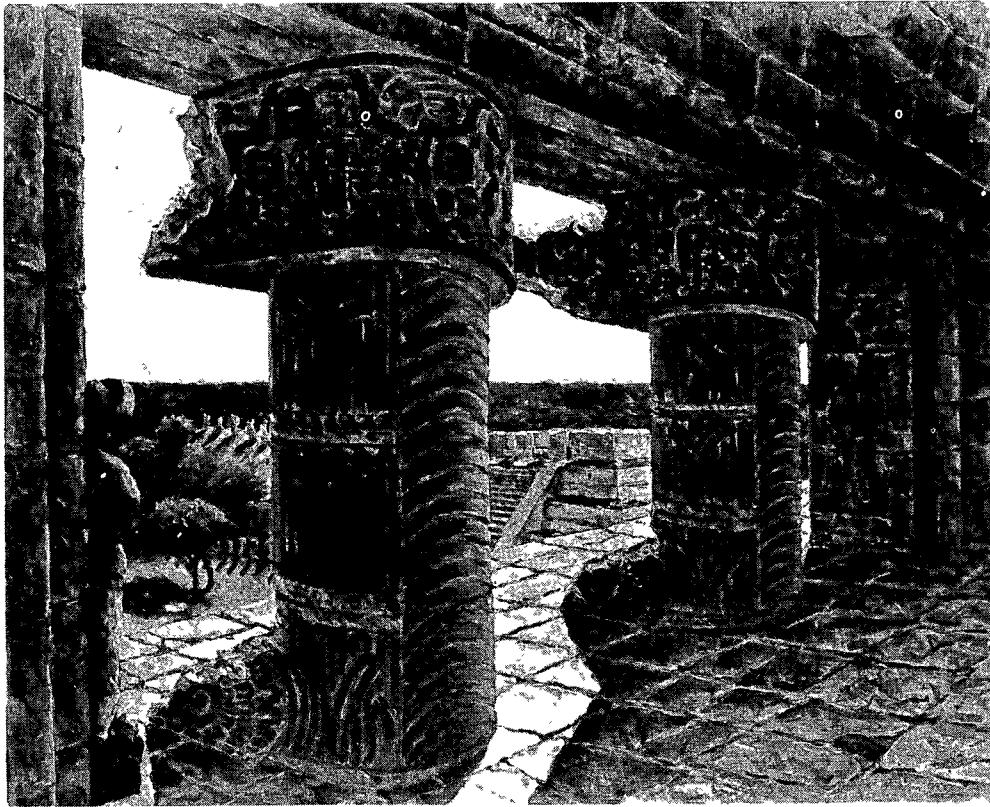
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THE MIRACLE TEMPLE LECTURES

MAYAN REVELATION NUMBER 115

LESSON NUMBER TWO IN A SERIES OF Seven Magic Words

Listen

The Miracle of Hearing

Listen

The Listening Habit

You Can Listen to Minds

Pass It On

The Ear of the Heart

The Ear of the Soul

Master Prayer

Beloved Centurion:

As we take up the Second Monograph in our Miracle Temple Series, I am reminded of a visit with one of our members, here in my study.

This good and Beloved Companion had learned much of truth teaching. Her knowledge made me proud and happy. She told me she had evolved to a stage in her development wherein she had been able to demonstrate ability to heal a condition of her own. She was a highly intelligent and delightful member of our ranks, - but during our visit she said something which made me pause and think. Here is what she said, "Miss Dawn, when a person KNOWS the TRUTH, why must he or she continue to study?"

Perhaps some of you who have become Centurions may have asked yourself the same question, "After I have LEARNED the TRUTH, what more is there to learn?"

My answer to that question or to any other similar question is the answer I gave to my visiting Companion. Every year, I, your Leader, learn more and more. We NEVER know ALL, but we become richer spiritually, mentally and physically as we go onward and upward. I could go on at great length but I will wait until later in this lesson on Hearing. You will find more on this subject in the last part, but I might add this thought here and now. Perhaps we know our Bible and we consider ourselves Christians, but we STILL go to church; we go because we need and want to learn MORE; - we know right from wrong, we believe in God and prayer; - Many things our minister tells us we already know; - BUT WE GO TO CHURCH TO LEARN MORE and to keep reviving that faith, which, in times of trouble, is often greatly shaken.

No, Beloved Companions, we NEVER STOP LEARNING and when we KNOW THE TRUTH, WE MUST KEEP FINDING NEW WAYS TO APPLY THOSE TRUTH PRINCIPLES TO OUR DAILY LIFE IN ORDER TO REACH PERFECTION INASMUCH AS IS POSSIBLE IN THIS EARTH LIFE.

But now let us proceed with another one of Life's Miracles.

How many times have you come in contact with people whom you regarded as excellent conversationalists? Perhaps you considered them very good talkers, when you were in conversation. It may be that you were right, but it may be that instead of being great conversationalists they were really GOOD LISTENERS. Someone has said it takes a great man to be a good listener. A good listener REALLY LISTENS. He doesn't show his indifference by letting his glance wander in all directions while you earnestly talk; he doesn't show his impatience to break into your conversation when you are talking, thereby showing his lack of consideration of your opinion. He listens earnestly and sincerely, showing respect for the thoughts you are expressing.

We now go further with this thought by reading carefully and slowly the words of the Meditation as we take up the MIRACLE OF HEARING.

MEDITATION

I have heard, both in sound and silence, the voice of Eternity speaking to my soul. I accept the instruction and guidance of the Infinite Wisdom, purpose to go where it leads me, and charge

myself to do what it requires. Thus, little by little, I shall become like it, for I shall see it as it is.

THE MIRACLE OF HEARING

We have considered the miracle of thought. Now let us turn our thought to another great miracle that is also familiar to us in everyday experience - that of hearing. To perceive and make any use of this miracle one must learn to listen, but first let us think a little about the miracle itself.

Once at a banquet, Thomas A. Edison was introduced as the man who invented the talking machine, and replied that this was a mistake since God was the inventor of the talking machine. But it would have been of no use for God to invent the talking machine, which is the voice, without also inventing the hearing machine, which is the ear. These two are geared together in the miracle of listening.

Mr. Edison meant that in the invention of the phonograph he had to take both into account and develop a mechanical imitation of each, the phonographic record furnishing the atmospheric vibration and the sound box with its plastic ear drum, picking them up and translating them into sound.

In the invention of the ear, God combined four assemblies which work together in picking up vibrations released by the vocal cords or otherwise and turning them into words, music, or mere noise. The outer ear catches the waves in its reversed megaphone, the middle ear intensifies them by passing them through a vibrating drum, and the inner ear with a set of bones operating like a telegraph instrument puts them on the auditory nerve operating like a telegraph wire and then sends them to a set of brain cells specialized to take them up and report them back as sound. Miracle? Do you know of a greater one?

We are told that, without the presence of a living creature with this marvelous hearing equipment in operation, thunder might roll, trees fall, or multitudes shout, but there would be no sound; since vibration becomes sound only when it reaches the brain. This sounds ridiculous, but it is true. Things as we know them are only the mind's interpretations of stimuli taken in through the senses. God gives us the makings of the universe, but we put them together within ourselves.

A certain man was given a very fine and costly piece of machinery, but he didn't know much about what it was, and he didn't care to go to the trouble to learn how to use it; so he just neglected it and let it rust away. It would have brought him great good, but he missed all that because he never understood what a wonderful thing it was and what wonderful things it could do for him. That piece of machinery could have been the ear, for with some of us that is its story.

What riches wait to be received through listening - the music of the masters, the words of love and wisdom, the myriad voices of nature! But two kinds of people miss them - those who do not hear and those who do not listen. This lesson is a plea to you to make the most of this priceless treasure, the power to listen.

LISTEN

Let us here re-emphasize the fact that making the most of the sense of hearing is not merely having a good pair of ears, but also one of using them. One can

go through a day, or through life, with all kinds of sounds, both significant and meaningless, drifting into his ears; but if he does not give attention, or does not consider what he hears, he is little better off than a deaf person.

Remember the importance of attention. Without it you simply go through life missing its countless messages for you. There is magic in it. It is the secret of memory. One does not easily forget anything he has once really opened his mind to.

Listen to what is going on around you. You will learn from it. The voices of the world are countless. Select the best and give them special attention. Through reading one can listen to the great minds of the past, but remember that every age, including this one, has its great minds also. There are people of this generation, and some of them may be near you, whose words will be remembered as having profoundly influenced the life of the world.

By listening to what is going on in your time you will get clues of truth, fragments you cannot see how to do anything with at the moment, but which you can use some day if you keep them in mind. One by one you will discover other fragments that seem to fit in with them. The first thing you know you will have a finished pattern of something that is important and valuable.

Long before there were such things as schools people had to learn by means of their senses and by experience. Through such gates as the eye and the ear and by the tests of experience and trial, people had to learn what was necessary to get along. As life grew more complex greater needs and greater opportunities appeared, but always much of what went to build up the inner life had to come in through the eye and the ear. The eye is more sensitive, but the ear is more profound and has a wider range. What the eye sees is quickly gone, but what the ear hears keeps echoing on for days, years, or throughout life.

We have more things to listen to even than just the voices about us. They are the voices of this present world which it is hard to keep from hearing, but there are also the voices of the past and of the future. Now and then we hear of hopes to produce some machine that will recall voices that spoke years or ages ago as though from a radio set. That may or may not come, but the heart has such an equipment ready now. Memory recalls the voices of the immediate yesterdays, and even from remote years come echoes of what the world once thought and said. At the same time, there rolls down from unborn years the rush and music of what is to be. To stand between these voices of yesterday and tomorrow and correctly hear and interpret them both is to have a magnificent opportunity to build a life of strength and worth.

Then there are the silences, the voiceless space around us and the stream of stillness that sweeps through our inward thoughts. From these reaches truth sometimes calls, and sometimes comes the still, small voice that has called so many to greatness through the centuries. If you are interested in the world, and life, and truth, you have quite a listening job to do.

THE LISTENING HABIT

As you listen you will develop what might be called the listening habit. After that the intake of ideas will increase. Not only so but your own life will improve in quality. A good listener is wiser, and he is more acceptable as a worker or a friend.

"A wise old owl sat in an oak.
The more he saw the less he spoke.
The less he spoke the more he heard.
Why can't we all be like that bird?"

Those lines are a suggestion of how much people lose by not developing the listening habit. The person who tries to do all the talking is usually the one least qualified to do it, for he never lets himself listen enough to know much. It is with ideas as it is with money in the bank - the deposits should keep pace with the checks.

How many people do you know who are considered good conversationalists? Is there a single one who is especially talkative? Probably not, for a good conversationalist must also be a good listener. He always learns something, and the one who never pauses to listen does not.

This is true in prayer. How strange it is that for so many centuries it has been assumed that praying means talking to God, with no notion at all of listening to Him. There would be less frustration in praying if people would engage more in two-way praying, saying what is on their hearts but not failing to listen to hear what God has to say.

Develop and cultivate the listening habit. Everything we see and every person we meet has something to say that is worth listening to. A certain cobbler in a university town developed so rich a mind that great scholars lingered in his shop to listen to him, and he was finally elected an officer of the university, filling the office with credit and ability till he died.

Every person you meet has something worth-while to say. You have long been wondering about some special thing. One day you will meet someone who can tell you about it. Watch for that person and listen with respect. He may be able to make it plainer than some great scholar might do. You never know when you can turn to good account something you have learned through the listening habit. Here is the writer's list for one day of people from whom he has learned something - a policeman, a janitor, a colored elevator operator, and a stranger in a hotel lobby. That was one day in one place. Others could have been found any other day in any other place.

YOU CAN LISTEN TO MINDS

We are now to explore a technique used in psychology laboratories and having almost a magic power to reveal what goes on in human minds. The psychologist calls it free association. He will give the subject a card with a list of words on it, or else he will call out a list of spoken words. The subject is to speak the first word suggested to him by each word in the list. If he carries out his instructions correctly, a study of the words he gives will show what they are associated with in his mind and thus reveal what is there, what happens, and what its trend is, and therefore what kind of mind he has and what kind of person he is.

Even criminals are sometimes detected in this way. It is a perfectly natural method of reading minds. For instance, if the operator says bank and the subject says vault, one sees at once what is most important to him about banks. If he is a robbery suspect that should have some meaning.

Now let us take this practice out of the psychology laboratory and plant it right in the heart of our everyday lives. We will not use cards with printed word lists or any technical thing or method. In the most everyday way we will simply listen to people talk. We will not bother with what they say; we will watch for what they imply, not just with the words they use but rather with the ideas, habits, and attitudes with which they associate themselves. In this way we can form correct estimates of people, for we can come to know them better than many of them know themselves.

Many years ago Henry Drummond preached a great sermon beginning with this unforgettable sentence, "You can unlock a man's whole life if you watch what words he uses most." He took Jesus of Nazareth as an instance, and went on to characterize Him by His favorite vocabulary of simple monosyllables, like life, world, love and trust. He was suggesting free association analysis years before the psychologists got hold of the idea. It works.

Many years ago the writer was in a meeting of a committee including a man of high position and excellent reputation. In making a point this man used a comment which, while relevant, suggested something a little startling about his thought life; for, you see, it is as true of a mind as it is of a box that nothing can come out of it that was not in it.

No one else seemed to pay any special notice to this comment, and the writer decided to ignore it, trusting that this time he was mistaken. But he wasn't. Years afterward, in another part of the world, the suggested element of personality came to expression and made a sad wreck of what had hitherto been a brilliant career. He may not have been conscious that he carried this danger within himself. If he had, perhaps he could have overcome it or at least have prevented it from manifesting itself in action.

You can make use of the free association principle. Anyone can. Just watch the words a given person uses most and think what they suggest. In the background of what one says off guard stands a picture of his thought life. If you do this right you can become an almost perfect judge of human nature, and how often in the experience of anyone some expertness of this kind is needed - choosing companions, employees, friends, and people to trust in business.

But this requires listening in a specialized way. As you do it you will not only be analyzing minds and estimating characters by use of the original lie detector method; but you will also be cultivating the listening habit in an interesting and perhaps valuable way.

PASS IT ON

Years ago the writer got his car stuck in a mudhole on a country road. As he struggled to get the spinning wheels to find trackage and move out of the predicament he saw an elderly man come out of a nearby farmhouse and start toward the helpless vehicle with a heavy timber in his hand. The leverage of his timber against the rear axle added enough power to the struggling motor to enable it to pull the car out of the mud and onto more solid road bed. Thinking of all the stories he had heard of roadside dwellers who made a paying racket of that sort of thing, the motorist humbly asked the countryman how much he owed him. He received this rather surprising reply, "just lend a helping hand to the next poor fellow

you see in trouble, that's all."

This old man had fathomed what appears to be a fixed principle life, and was putting it into practice in his simple life there by the side of the road. It was the principle that when one receives a blessing the proper acknowledgement of it is to pass it, for it was not given for one person alone but to be shared with others as it travels down the years. He had the idea of the opposite of a vicious circle. His plan was to set going an endless line of good deeds, a kindly circle, a sort of chain reaction of good will. Do you not see what wonderful possibilities the idea has?

Let us apply this principle to the process of accumulating ideas and knowledge by listening. It is especially rewarding in this field because sharing truth not only does not diminish one's supply but fixes it more firmly in his possession. One can give away the golden rule every day of his life, but he cannot get rid of it. Each time he gives it to someone else it becomes more surely his own than ever.

Almost every unusual person who ever lived had someone who helped him get going by passing on to him the germ or basis of whatever it was that made him unusual. Whatever we may be or do, most of us owe it in large part to someone who gave us a push in the right direction, in the right way, at the right time. What a blessing to the world these kind-hearted pushers are!

Three of the greatest names in Greek culture are those of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. The greatness of these men, living still in the life of our time, was no accident.

Somewhere, perhaps from the torch of heavenly wisdom itself, Socrates got the flame burning in his soul. He passed it on to Plato who gave it an expression determined in part by his own character and personality. Plato, who through his famous peripatetic - or walking around - school was generous in passing on the light, kindled its spark in the soul of Aristotle who expressed it in terms of his yet different personality and time, and who in his turn passed it on more widely.

Jesus of Nazareth selected twelve plain men to be the bearers of His influence on the life of the world. Most of them attained greatness, a few surpassing greatness in His reflected light. What we have from the life of the Master we have because they were faithful in passing it on.

A lad named John G. Whittier caught the impulse of poetry from the poems of Robert Burns. The two men were very different and lived in different parts of the world, but that spark of inspiration, passed on from a Scottish soul to a New England one, has blessed and influenced many.

So the exchange goes on. Through listening you will receive much. What you receive share freely with those who are ready to accept.

THE EAR OF THE HEART

Miraculous as the physical ear is, it is not the only one we have and need to use in following the listening habit. The heart also has a sense of hearing, and it

can hear things to which the ear is not attuned. Through what the heart hears we are all strangely blessed.

The heart is especially sensitive to such voices as those of suffering and need. It has a way of becoming restless and dissatisfied when there is need or trouble anywhere near. If that need is voiced the heart hears with special responsiveness, but even though not a word is spoken the heart understands because it catches overtones that do not carry on the air.

This is a valuable possession, though it often seems a troublesome one. It sometimes sends us out of our way or leads us onto a path of self-sacrifice to lend a hand, or help right a wrong, or undo a mistake. But the process is rewarding. It leaves us richer in happiness and the knowledge that we are of some value to the human race.

One of the gospels in the New Testament tells the story of a woman who came to ask the Master for help. As the record runs, "He answered her not a word." But she got her blessing. He had understood, and she had understood the silence that was His answer, and her plea was granted. There is a silence heard only by the ear of the heart, but it is often more eloquent than speech.

We sometimes see people exchange glances with deep, earnest, searching eyes. Not a word is spoken, but we can see that they understand. Each heart has sent out its message, and in the silence the other has heard.

We sometimes see strangers meet and search the depths of each other's being with their eyes. They simply let their eyes meet and understand. The ear of the heart makes that possible.

Someone hears the cry of the heart of some neglected or troubled group. His heart answers and a leader is born. Moses was such a one, as have been all who felt great needs and championed great causes. Someone's heart hears the distress cry of the whole human race. It answers, and he becomes one of the many saviours of mankind, perhaps a humanitarian glimpsing some phase of the kingdom of heaven for his kind, perhaps an anointed One willing to climb a Calvary because He has glimpsed the whole kingdom of hope for all His race. Our progress from savagery has been led by such people, and our progress to the kingdom of hope will be led by them.

Cultivate your heart's sense of hearing, for you will need to listen with it as well as with your ears. Use that perception faithfully; it will find meanings in a special realm of discovery. It will also cultivate sympathy and good will.

Keep your heart sensitive, and follow its call. Somewhere it will find a way of destiny for you and lead you in it.

THE EAR OF THE SOUL

In closing this lesson let us point out still another and still more delicate sense of hearing, - that of the soul. It is important that we listen with that also. Let us try to discover what it is.

The psalmist once spoke of the deep calling unto the deep. It surely does that in those silent reaches where the soul listens. This is something like the ultimate field of truth itself. One may listen a long time without apparent result, because it takes time to sharpen this sense enough to function; but soon or late the listener is likely to hear eternity calling.

To what does it call us? Usually to some height of spiritual or personal excellence, some crest of understanding, some pinnacle of being at its best. The usual challenge seems to be along the endless roads of advancement leading out from where we are, through all the possible levels of the life to come, to where we shall be.

Though we have emerged from the jungle, we have traveled only a little way. We are just beginning the march to our real possibilities. We have had quite a struggle to get as far as we have, and we shall have quite a struggle yet really to attain the status of people made only a little lower than the angels. Even beyond that lies the realization of the image of God in His glory of perfection.

Have you ever gone into a vast chamber of some underground cavern, or waited in the quiet of some great cathedral, or stood under the starry dome of the sky on a still night, and just waited, and wondered, and listened? Here and there some sound broke the stillness and was magnified into mighty echoes. But beyond that your soul heard something else, something which, though silent, took on meaning for you. Eternity was speaking, and in its call you sensed a realization of farther reaches of being and understanding. This is one of the highest experiences that can come to a human being. Only they who are willing to go on may dare those heights. To answer the call and then turn back is worse than not to answer it at all.

Seekers for infinite goals are likely to be lonely people. The way to have plenty of company is to stay back with the crowd, and not dare the heights. The higher you climb in experience and understanding, the fewer companions you will have. Prepare your soul for this. But what companionship you do have will be that of choice souls and of the Infinite whose voice speaks to your inner self. That, if you appreciate it, is the best of all.

Do not be content with the ordinary, formal devotional practices that satisfy so many. Little trick prayers and sawed-off scripture texts may do for those who do not desire or expect much and who do not care to attempt much. They are better than nothing, but they never yet made a hero, a prophet, or a saint.

Stimulate your spiritual perceptions with devotional readings and exercises, but do more. Go often along the way of faith into the vastness of the greater truth and reality. Wait there while your soul listens. There is the real Holy of Holies wherein to stand is to be blessed. There is the real Bethel, where the soul says with Jacob, "This is the gate of heaven."

When you have experienced the Presence, do and be what you have experienced. Do not be disobedient to the heavenly vision. But we shall emphasize that in another lesson.

As we close this study period, let us pray together the Master Prayer which follows, remembering that a great group of us are united in strength, as we make

the following prayer request of our Father:

MASTER PRAYER

Father God, sensitize the ears of both my body and my soul. Help me to make my sense of hearing a quest for truth and life. May much that is worth listening to come to me, and may my attention to it be such that before it passes I shall have made it mine. My teachers are countless. Let me learn from all of them. Amen.

May God Bless You,

Your Class Instructor

We are proud to bring you, in our next lesson in the Miracle Series, which will be Number Three, the following title LEARN, and in it we take up the subjects:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| The Power to Learn | Life's Growing Edge |
| The Sense of Wonder | Experience |
| Sources | The Fruits |
| Observe | Master Prayer |